

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-02 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1523

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 10257

LIMDIS

E O 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS PFOR PN CO

SUBJ: PANAMA MIL DEL VISIT TO CUBA

FOR ARA ROGERS FROM AMB

REF BOGOTA 10073

1. FORNMIN SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING AT PRES'S REQUEST TO GIVE ME REPORT OF PRES'S FOLLOWUP ON OUR REQUEST REFTEL. LOPEZ SAW AMB JURADO YESTERDAY. JURADO WAS SENT PERSONALLY BY TORRIJOS TO DISCUSS THE PLANNED MEETING OF LA CHIEFS OF STATE IN CELEBRATION OF THE AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS OF PANAMA. LOPEZ USED THE OCCASION TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO TORRIJOS THAT THE MIL VISIT WAS UNWISE. ACCORDING TO LIEVANO, LOPEZ EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO THE PANAMANIAN THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS SORT OF THING, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE MIL VISIT AND THE PUBLICITY WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE US CONGRESS AND COULD IMPERIL THE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING A TREATY. LIEVANO SAID LOPEZ WAS DISCREET BUT FRANK.

2. ACCORDING TO LIEVANO, LOPEZ HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PANAMANIAN ALREADY REGRETTED THE MISSION. JURADO IN EFFECT ASKED WHAT COULD THEY DO, POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS NO WAY
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TO PUT THE GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE. TO SCRUB THE MISSION WOULD

APPEAR TO BE BOWING TO "YANQUI" PRESSURE, WHICH THEY DID NOT WANT TO DO EITHER. LOPEZ, ACCORDING TO LIEVANO, STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD PUT THE WHOLE THING IN VERY LOW KEY. IF THEY HAD TO FINISH THE VISIT, STOP PUBLICITY, ACT DISCREETLY AND QUIETLY, AND ABOVE ALL NOT DO ANYTHING THAT DEFIES THE US OR APPEARS TO.

3. LIEVANO SAID THE PANAMANIANIANS GOT THE MESSAGE AND THT HE WAS SURE THE PANAMANIANIANS WOULD HANDLE AL THIS WITH THE UTMOST DISCRETION AND QUIET. I ASKED HIM TO THANK THE PRES FOR HIS ASSIS-TANCE. VAKY

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